

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 March 2005 (31.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/029905 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04Q 11/00, H04J 14/02

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2004/052114

(22) International Filing Date: 9 September 2004 (09.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 103 43 615.4 20 September 2003 (20.09.2003) DE

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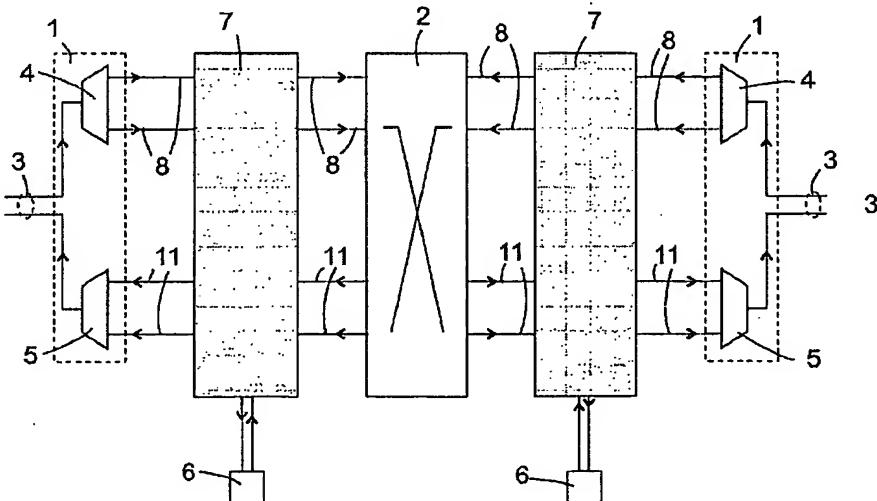
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: NODE FOR AN OPTICAL COMMUNICATION NETWORK



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(57) Abstract: A node for an optical communication network comprises at least one switching unit (2), a plurality of optical interfaces (1) for connecting to a WDM transmission line (3), which comprise a demultiplexer (4) for disassembling a multiplex signal arriving from a WDM transmission line (3) into a plurality of input channels (8), each of which is supplied to an input port of the switching unit (2), and a multiplexer (5) for assembling a plurality of output channels (11), each originating from an out-put port of the switching unit (2), into an outgoing multiplex signal, and at least one transponder (6) for adding an information signal to and dropping it from the communication network, respectively. Input and output branching means (7) between each interface (1) and the switching unit (2) on the path of the input and output channels (8, 11), respectively, are adapted to supply an input channel (8) to the switching unit (2) or to the transponder (6), or to supply an output channel (11) from the interface to the switching unit (2) or the transponder (6).



Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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